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For example, the Jews in Rumania are well known to be a portentous issue frequently made the occasion of international negotiations. Mr. Mitrany dismisses the matter in a foot-note (p. 298) with the remark that it is "too controversial to be dealt with in a few lines". Again. Rumania's conduct in the War of 1913, which even friends of the country have usually characterized as both foolish and treacherous, is buried under a denunciation of the improper activities of Austria (pp. 502-504). Can it be that these are complaisances by which the British Clio seeks to avoid giving offense in war-time? The really valuable contributions in this volume are supplied by Mr. Toynbee (Greece) and Mr. Hogarth (Turkey). These men, taking wise account of the imposed limitations of space, undertook to write not histories of their respective peoples but historical essays. They have been remarkably successful, composing sketches that are vivacious, sympathetic, and fairly bristling with original and penetrating interpretations of the Byzantine and Ottoman empires and of the two peoples that in the main supported these towering fabrics. Being profoundly convinced, Mr. Toynbee of the mental alertness of the Greek townsmen of our day and Mr. Hogarth of the solid virtues of the Anatolian peasantry, they clash in their estimate of the opponents of their respective clients, but it is an honest difference of opinion perfectly reasonable in this world of doubt and error. An interesting fact is that Mr. Toynbee more fervently than any of his collaborators looks forward to a Balkan federation as the solution of the present chaos. The intense animosities between race and race, which he acknowledges must be lived down before a practicable union can be realized, he hopes, somewhat fantastically, to see dispersed by the reimpatriated Greeks, Bulgars, Albanians, and Montenegrins who have been mentally made over in the course of an apprenticeship as emigrant laborers in the United States. Mr. Hogarth is apparently loath to see Turkey take its departure from this world, and, strange to say, quite as much on governmental as on racial grounds. He points out certain factors in the Ottoman situation and character that make the partition that seems to lie in the plans of the Allies not only undesirable but also very difficult. One need not agree with Mr. Toynbee's or Mr. Hogarth's estimate of the present and forecast of the future, but one will find their attitude throughout marked by good temper and inspired by practical and at the same time generous considerations.

FERDINAND SCHEVILL.

The Diplomatic Background of the War, 1870-1914. By CHARLES SEYMOUR, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History, Yale University. (New Haven: Yale University Press; London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press. 1916. Pp. xv, 311.)

AMONG studies dealing with the general causes of the Great War this volume is in character and execution the most scholarly one that

has come to the attention of the reviewer. It would be easy to enumerate books on this subject written more vividly and bearing more evident marks of intimate knowledge of the peoples and conditions with which the authors deal—such as Gibbons's *New Map of Europe*, Bullard's *Diplomacy of the Great War*, Allen's *The Great War*, and Davenport's *History of the Great War*—but if this is not the work of one with the obvious qualifications of traveller, correspondent, or resident abroad, it is clearly the result of serious and careful study by a writer having primarily the point of view of the trained historian, who has examined to advantage the sources and literature of the recent history of Europe. And there is besides what the critical reader is certain to desire and what he will vainly seek in most of the books so far written in this new field, a wealth of annotative and bibliographical information. A serviceable index is appended.

For the most part the study is what it purports to be, a history of European diplomacy in the last generation; and it affords, probably, one of the ablest brief accounts in English. More properly, I think, than Bullard, who took as his starting-point the Congress of Berlin, the author begins with the triumph of Bismarck in 1870. He maintains the immediate political results, prodigious as they were, to have been less important than the moral effects of the methods employed in the unification of Germany, which did not result from the application of liberal and nationalistic principles, as the earlier idealists had hoped, but, in direct contravention, through triumph of trickery and force, so that the German people afterwards came above all to venerate might and power. Bismarck's success in upholding the hegemony of Germany after 1870 was no less striking than that which he had previously achieved in its unification; and this lordship was maintained thereafter less obviously but with as real ability by William II., of whom there is striking characterization. There is an excellent account of the development of the Triple Alliance, of the Dual Alliance, and finally of the Triple Entente, as well as of the crises which arose after 1904 when Germany was endeavoring to reassert her primacy, which had been disturbed by the diplomatic revolution effected by Delcassé and Edward VII.

The narrative pertaining to the diplomacy and action immediately preceding the catastrophe is clear, decisive, and, I think, sound. The author asserts that Germany and Austria were determined to overthrow the settlement made by the treaty of Bucharest, and waited for an opportunity to attempt this. The Teutonic powers, he thinks, were convinced that Russia would not go to war in Servia's behalf, and when Russia made it plain that she would resist, Austria receded, whereupon Germany at once intervened decisively and forced the issue. Throughout the volume runs the central thesis that Germany's advance as a world power depended upon the maintenance of her primacy in Europe, and this position she was resolved at all costs to uphold.

The book is not without blemishes though relatively free from them.

There is a certain amount of repetition which becomes unpleasant when employed in similes and striking expressions; occasionally there is statement which might better be conjecture; the name of the capital of Bosnia is given two different ways (pp. 244, 256); it is scarcely correct to say that Servia accepted absolutely eight of the ten demands of Austria (p. 258); the spelling of such names as Skobeleff and Sazonoff would be nearer the Russian if in translation the final consonant were not doubled (pp. 124, 261).

EDWARD RAYMOND TURNER.

The Great War. By GEORGE H. ALLEN, Ph.D. With an Introduction by WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT. Volume I. *Causes of and Motives for.* (Philadelphia: George Barrie's Sons. 1915. Pp. xxx, 377.)

DURING the earlier months of the European war writing about it was necessarily for the most part hasty, partizan, and controversial; but with the lapse of some time and the continuous and increasing interest of so many people, better books have begun to appear. For the general causes of the conflict there are now Gibbons's *New Map of Europe* and Bullard's *Diplomacy of the Great War*; for the immediate causes and diplomatic correspondence Headlam's *History of Twelve Days* and Stowell's *Diplomacy of the War of 1914*. These books are informing and all of them meritorious, but each deals with some particular aspects of the entire subject. The publishers of the present work have designed a comprehensive popular history, beginning with the general and immediate causes of strife, which are dealt with in the volume here reviewed, to be followed by other volumes narrating the incidents and results of the struggle.

The publishers have executed their part of the task very creditably. The book is handsomely printed and finely made, though somewhat heavy to hold; and it is illustrated with nearly a hundred maps and photographs, some of the former, like that of the Bagdad railway and the distribution of Mohammedan populations, being excellent, many of the latter representing Teutonic personages. But it must be observed that Mr. Taft, whose name appears so prominently on the cover, has only contributed a pleasant introduction of a few pages, and that the publishers ascribe the author to the department of history in the University of Pennsylvania, with which institution his connection has been rather slight.

In the opinion of the reviewer Dr. Allen has done his work well. His account of the recent history of the world is, I think, the best brief account which has been written, and probably as useful as any which the general reader can obtain; though the Dual Alliance, the development of the Entente Cordiale, and the meaning and importance of Pan-Germanism are treated in a manner inferior to what one might expect. The character and purpose of the volume make it impossible that the